

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

----- 120501

R 041847Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8161

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FOR CHARGE FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W

E. O. 11652: DECONTROL 30 APRIL 1975

TAGS: PFOR, MR, US

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION CREDENTIALS

1. REQUEST YOU APPLY YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MAURITANIA AND THE PERSONALITIES INVOLVED TO THE REVISION, ELABORATION, CONDENSATION, AND EDITING OF PRESENTATION REMARKS WHICH FOLLOW IN DRAFT.

2. "IT IS A VERY GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE IN MAURITANIA AND ABOVE ALL TO MEET YOUR EXCELLENCY. AS MY FIRST OFFICIAL TASK, IT IS MY DUTY TO HAND TO YOU THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD RECALLING MY PREDECESSOR AND GOOD FRIEND AMBASSADOR RICHARD MURPHY. NEXT IT IS MY DUTY TO PRESENT TO YOU A SECOND LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD ACCREDITING ME AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

3. MY ARRIVAL HERE AND, IN PARTICULAR, THIS MEETING WITH YOU THIS (MORNING) GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE EXPLICITLY THE VALUE WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PLACES ON THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH EXIST BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND THE
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UNITED STATES. THIS MEETING WITH YOU WHICH MARKS THE

OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF MY MISSION HERE ALSO GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE AGAIN IN A FORMAL WAY THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR STILL CLOSER TIES WITH YOU AND WITH YOUR COUNTRYMEN OVER AN EVEN BROADER RANGE OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

4. UNTIL RECENTLY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNEW RELATIVELY LITTLE ABOUT MAURITANIA. BUT INCREASING CONTACT OVER THE PAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND MAURITANIANS IN MANY DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY THE DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE AMERICANS HAVE OF YOUR COUNTRY. THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE, LEARNED MUCH ABOUT MAURITANIA AND ITS PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT HERE OF A GROUP OF ASTRONOMERS AND OTHER SCIENTISTS IN 1972 TO OBSERVE THE SOLAR ECLIPSE. AMBASSADOR MURPHY DESCRIBED THE WARM WELCOME HE RECEIVED HERE TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND TO HIS FRIENDS AROUND THE UNITED STATES. STILL MORE RECENTLY, MANY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND PERHAPS AN EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND IN DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA HAVE COME TO KNOW OR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY BROADENED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF MAURITANIA AS A RESULT OF THE VIGOROUS EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR OULD ABDALLAH NOT ONLY IN WASHINGTON BUT IN CITIES ALL AROUND THE UNITED STATES.

5. THUS, WHEN THE NEWS OF THE PROLONGED DROUGHT AND OF ITS SEVERE IMPACT ON MAURITANIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL BEGAN TO REACH THE UNITED STATES SOME TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DECIDED THEY MUST STRETCH OUT A HELPING HAND TO THEIR NEW FRIENDS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSEQUENTLY JOINED FORCES WITH OTHER CONCERNED NATIONS AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP THE NATIONS AND THE PEOPLES WHO HAD SUFFERED THE MOST FROM THE PROLONGED DROUGHT.

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6. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT SO LONG AS THE NEED EXISTS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO MAURITANIA'S OWN EFFORTS TO RECOVER FROM THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF DRYNESS. THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEACE CORPS WILL CONTINUE TO HELP AS LONG AS THEIR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED AND THEY ARE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL.

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7. RECOGNIZING THE DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA TO BRING ABOUT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO HELP WHERE IT CAN. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO MAKE A VIGOROUS EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANIES TO MAKE THEIR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT. I AM MOST PLEASED THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS ARE ALREADY ACTIVE HERE PROVIDING SPECIALIZED MAINTENANCE SERVICES, CARRYING OUT TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AND DESIGNING AND BUILDING NEW PRODUCTIVE FACILITIES. THERE ARE MANY OTHER HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICAN CONSULTING ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WHICH HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN DESIGNING, BUILDING, AND OPERATING A WIDE VARIETY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NATIONS WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO MAURITANIA ECONOMICALLY AND PHYSICALLY. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP YOU OBTAIN FROM THE UNITED STATES THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE YOU MAY NEED IN CARRYING OUT YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

8. MR. PRESIDENT, MY GOVERNMENT IS HOPEFUL THAT THE DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WHICH ALREADY

EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MAURITANIA WILL
BE STRENGTHENED AND DIVERSIFIED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.
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FOR MY PART, I ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL SPARE NO EFFORT
IN WORKING TOWARD THE REALIZATION OF THIS GOAL."

9. FOR AF/W: WOULD WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND
SUGGESTIONS. TO MEET PRESENTATION SCHEDULE, FINAL
EDITING AND TRANSLATION WILL HAVE TO BEGIN APRIL 10.
RUSH

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